2015
INDIANA SEED CONTROL
SUMMARY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
Office of
INDIANA STATE CHEMIST & SEED COMMISSIONER

Protecting Indiana’s Agriculture and Environment – Feed, Fertilizer, Pesticide, and Seed

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Providing education, service and protection to Indiana consumers and industry to assure quality seed products of the highest integrity are truthfully represented and available in the marketplace

• OUR PURPOSE

The Indiana Seed Law (IC 15-15-1) is administered by the Office of Indiana State Chemist & Seed Commissioner. The purpose of the law is twofold: First, to give the purchaser sufficient information to enable him to buy good seed, and second, to protect the honest and reliable seedsmen and the farmer from unscrupulous dealers. Our field, laboratory and office staffs strive to carry out our mission in administration and enforcement of the Act.

• INSPECTION SAMPLING TESTING

Inspection Visits: 410
Official Samples: 1,563
Dealers Sampled: 327
Labelers Sampled: 188

Enforcement action initiated in 2015 was dictated by the seriousness of the violations found as a result of either laboratory analysis or inspectional observations discovered during facility inspections.

Official Samples Tested in 2015: 1,563
Official Samples Passing: 1,488 (95.2)
Samples Deficient: 75 (4.8%)

Minor Violations Based on Product Analysis: (Relabeling Orders): 42 (2.7%) ……… 168,357 lbs of seed *
Involving seed lots labeled by 23 different labelers

Serious Violations Based on Product Analysis: (Stop Sale Orders): 33 (2.1%) ………… 76,366 lbs of seed **
Involving seed lots labeled by 19 different labelers

Inspector-Issued Stop Sale Orders: ………………………………… 78 ………………….. 76,175 lbs of seed
Involving seed lots distributed by

Total Pounds of Seed Under Stop Sale Orders: …………………………………… 152,541 lbs of seed

Laboratory analysis done to verify label claims of “mechanical purity” (included Pure Seed %, other crop seed %, inert matter %, weed seed %, noxious weed seed), seed count, and “viability” (germination, hard seed and dormancy).

* Relabeling orders issued against seed lots classified as “minor” violations as a result of laboratory analysis
** Stop sale action taken against seed lots classified as “serious” violations as a result of laboratory analysis

• INTEGRATED REFUGE PRODUCT AUDITS

OISC inspectors conducted records audits on integrated corn refuge seed products in 2015. These “records audits” allow reviews of seed lot blending for both the refuge component and main component of Bt hybrid blends. In lieu of obtaining official samples and conducting purity testing, these reviews allow monitoring of seed lot quality via record keeping during the season. During 2015 OISC inspectors conducted audits on 72 seed lots blended by 15 different seed companies.

• COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS

OISC inspectors conducted 6 complaint investigations involving seed purchasers with issues related to alleged germination performance and seed purity, along with mislabeling. These complaints involved 4 distributors.

• USDA FEDERAL SEED ACT ENFORCEMENT

Samples are collected and submitted to the USDA Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch in support of the Cooperative Agreement for enforcement of the Federal Seed Act on shipments of seed moving in interstate commerce. OISC routinely submits file samples and documentation on seed lots that are found to be in violation of the Indiana Seed Law and Federal Seed Act.

Final settlement ($) on cases completed and submitted from previous years was achieved during 2015 involving 10 cases and 10 interstate shippers, amounting to a total of $27,875.